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JAN 21 1993

MEMORANDUM TO: Donna L. Searcy
Secretary

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FROM: Office of Commissioner Duggan

RE: Ex Parte Filings in Unrestricted Rulemaking Proceeding

DATE: January 21, 1993

Please include the attached letter in the record of CC
Docket No. 92-77.

Attachment

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BLAIR
TELEPHONE
COMPANY
302 Redding Street
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania 15931-0017

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JAN 21 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 14, 1992

Dear Commissioner Duggan:

Thank you very much for your letter of response regarding Billed Party Preference and the 0+ Public Domain issue as it relates to Proprietary Calling Cards. Frankly, I am stunned by your in-depth comprehension of the issues and pleased to learn that your understanding goes well below the surface of the problem, reaching into the heart of the real issue: the continuing monopoly by AT&T and the BOCs of the 0+ market. Most probably, their dominance in this market is not entirely by their own design but more likely a result of a series of regulatory decisions that were indeed designed to curtail the monopoly but have caused situations that no one could have foreseen.

I would agree with you that BPP seems to be the most encompassing solution for this very complex area of concern, but I also think that as the public continues to become more literate in their choices, BPP could very well become a system of grand design that actually becomes outdated before its implementation is complete. I can attest that since we have unblocked 10XXX at our payphones, the frequency of long distance calls is surprisingly substantial. Seems that the people are out there and they know how to use the system. The full benefits of the freedom.

As we, regulators, realize of actually implementing a solution in search of a problem, the choice is now there for the caller to dial the carrier of his choice. This choice is being used to a degree that many realize.

These choices are not easy ones, I am, as you are, sincerely concerned about the gougers that continue to deface the industry but these companies will soon be destroyed by their own device. We have, since then, placed pressure on our 0+ carriers to keep the per minute rates, collect charge, and third party rates in line with the dominant carriers. This pressure has at times been met with opposition to the extent that we had to discontinue certain business relationships. However, we feel that reasonable rates to the calling public is as much our responsibility as it is the 0+ carrier's. Like water, rates will find their level and the consumer will prevail.

Anyway, thanks again for your intelligent response and I will say that I feel much better now knowing that at least one FCC commissioner has a true understanding of this very complex area. Keep up the good work.

Very Truly Yours,

Jack W. Williamson

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